

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MAY 9, 2005**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on May 9, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs, Chohany, and Freiling. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Weiler, Yost, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

William and Mary Fire at Preston Hall:

Fire Chief Weiler reported about an incident that occurred during the fire on May 3, 2005. After checking the building to make sure all people were out of Preston Hall, Firefighter Mike Tromley and Lt. Barry Kopczynski entered the smoking building and went into the "common room." They were looking for a way to get into the attic which they knew was burning (fire was coming out of the eaves). Shortly after they entered the room looking for an attic hatch, the roof of the building collapsed and knocked the entire ceiling in on Firefighter Tromley. Tromley was knocked down by the debris, with fire all around him. By training and instinct, he plugged in the bypass hose to access clean air. He could not see the Lieutenant, but fortunately Lt. Kopczynski was thrown through the door and out of the room. Firefighter Tromley's concern was for the welfare of his Lieutenant. The Lieutenant was concerned about Tromley. When the roof collapsed, all fire fighters were ordered to evacuate the building. Lt. Kopczynski was safely out of the building, and fortunately, Tromley was able to work his way out of the building, but thought he would die. Eighty members of the mutual aid fire departments (Williamsburg, James City County and York County) responded to the scene, along with 33 vehicles. The City of Newport News sent an engine with four firefighters and Camp Perry sent an engine and driver.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Chief Weiler for sharing the story. Many people have praised the work of the firefighters and the department's leadership. No one knew of all the bravery that was demonstrated by the firefighters, and particularly in the instance of Firefighter Tromley. Our city is lucky to have our fire department and our region's mutual aid system.

Mr. Rick Hines, Co-Owner of Patriot Buick/Pontiac, Second Street, Purchaser of Williamsburg Ford Dealership, said that many of his staff members have to cross Second Street on a daily basis. He was concerned about pedestrian safety on Second Street. He presented a petition from the businesses and most property owners supporting the restriping of Second Street and requesting the city to reduce the speed limit on Second Street from 35 mph to 25 mph and maintain the current four lane configuration.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Hines for this information and noted that Council would hear a report from William and Mary students about accessibility. She thanked Mr. Hines for the expansion of his business.

Mr. Gary Shelley, 205 Indian Springs Road, addressed Council about student renters, the rental housing ordinance, and rental housing re-inspections. He addressed an inspection report on two of his rental houses and the items that were found to be inadequate on inspection.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Williamsburg Accessibility Project, William and Mary Environmental Sociology Research Project—Student Presentation

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated May 5, 2005. Mr. Tuttle explained that Professor Timmons Roberts' class in Environmental Sociology at the College of William and Mary will present a research project they conducted on non-automobile accessibility in the greater Williamsburg area.

Professor Roberts appreciated being placed on the City Council agenda. Every spring the Environmental Sociology class does a class project regarding a community problem. A small team collects data, compiles it, and then reports back to the community. He recognized the accessibility progress that has been made in the community, including improvements with the Williamsburg Area Transit, improvements at the Transportation Center, road striping, and new bike lanes. He hoped to keep working in the future with staff and City Council.

Students Melissa Angert, Jessica Mackow, Kailee Brickner-McDonald, and Bob Jacobsen provided a Power Point presentation addressing the research project (copy attached).

Mayor Zeidler thanked the professor and students for undertaking this study and for doing a good job with the report. She suggested that perhaps parts of the study might be pertinent to the review of the Comprehensive Plan and that the Regional Issues Committee might be interested in certain aspects of the study.

Mr. Haulman said that this provides better communication of what exists and stresses the importance of connectivity, especially the connectivity between the localities and certain locations, and that this connectivity needs continuous attention. Citizens may access this report by a link on the city's website under today's council agenda. He noted that the relationship between the community and college has changed dramatically with the emphasis on service learning such as the SHARP Program and community based research.

Mr. Chohany echoed Mr. Haulman's remarks and thanked the Professor for this program.

Mr. Nester said that the city has a Regional Bikeway Plan Map (built and un-built), but it is not on the website or available in a handout. Mr. Scruggs added that the Bike Trails of Williamsburg has a booklet.

Mr. Scruggs thanked the students for their work and for the information provided. The report enforces that people love their cars and keeps us from our goal of high speed or light

rail use. He was surprised that people were not knowledgeable about the bus service.

Mr. Freiling said that if residents do not know about the bus system, how do we expect visitors to our community to know and use public transportation. Hopefully we can improve that communication to visitors.

Mr. Freiling pointed out that the city has enhanced parking in Merchants Square, which has helped to reduce the number of people driving around the downtown area, and is working on "Wayfinding" signage to improve travel in our area.

Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Update

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated May 5, 2005. Council held the public hearing on the proposed FY 2006 budget last month. Mr. Tuttle said that changes to the budget are shown in the first attachment (see attached). The EMS Revenue Recovery item is on the May 12 agenda.

Mr. Scruggs said he would like to reorder the discussion about budget so as to first discuss EMS recovery fees.

Mr. Phillips said that was within Council discretion. They could move to pass the budget with the EMS fees included or could make a substitute motion. The Mayor and Council concurred that EMS Recovery Fees would be discussed first.

Mr. Scruggs, Deputy Fire Chief White, and Mr. Tuttle, discussed EMS billing practices and possible effects on insurance rates.

Mr. Tuttle reported that the city should meet budget at the end of the current fiscal year and if any funds are remaining, they are put into reserve for capitol needs. Mr. Scruggs said that he would like to come up with other revenue sources to meet city needs and put off the EMS billing for another year.

Mayor Zeidler supported billing for EMS. More calls are being received by the Fire Department for emergency medical services, which demand increased training of staff. She has received comments of support from many people and she was not concerned that people will not call for emergency services.

Mr. Haulman was originally opposed to the billing, but EMS services have dramatically changed—when you call 911, the hospital comes to you because of the trained medical staff.

Mr. Chohany has talked with Chief Weiler and supports billing for EMS. Anthem Insurance encourages this fee-based service, which is less expensive than hospital service.

Regulation of Taxi Service—Research and Findings

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated May 5, 2005. Mr. Tuttle explained that at the April 14 meeting, Council members continued two requests for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for taxi service. Council also asked staff to re-examine the city's requirements and process for issuance of the certificates.

The continued public hearing for the May 12 meeting will be administered under the current ordinance.

Mr. Tuttle reported that staff has conducted search on the practices of other Virginia localities and has reported their findings in the report (see attached). The most common practices in the localities surveyed are:

- Council sets the policy, the rates, and the maximum number of certificates to be issued.
- The City Manager administers the policy within the parameters set by Council.
- City Council is the appellant body.
- Safety and Condition of vehicles is better addressed to improve quality of inspections.

Mr. Tuttle recommended that the rates be increased in parity with the cities of Newport News and Hampton, for better quality of service and condition of taxis. An amended ordinance addressing regulation of taxi service will be placed on the June 9 Council agenda.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Tuttle and Ms. Crist for their work on this matter.

Preview of May 12, Council Meeting

No additional information was requested.

City Council Communications

Neighborhoods Council: Mayor Zeidler reported that Mr. Nester made a presentation to the council regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. It was well-received. Ryan Scofield, the new Student Assembly President, attended the meeting along with Mr. Jeb Nelson and two other William and Mary students.

Festival Williamsburg: Mr. Tuttle announced that Festival Williamsburg is coming up—May 21-23.

Schedule of Meetings: February 2005

Council members received a copy of the meeting calendar for May.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

Mr. Ben Altshuler, Virginia Avenue, agreed with the first speaker about Second Street. He suggested the road remain four lanes with one or two islands installed for pedestrian safety.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter per subparagraph 1; concerning Appointments to Boards and Commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany
No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The Mayor called a five-minute recess.

At 4:03 p.m. Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:
Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany
No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: February 7, 2005

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Chohany

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:
Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany
No: None

Absent During Vote: None
Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Approved: June 9, 2005

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor